

This Week's Top Stories in Retail **October 23rd, 2009**

[Wal-Mart's foreign growth to exceed U.S. growth in 2010](#)

Looking to assure investors that its growth plans remain robust, Wal-Mart Stores on Thursday presented its global plans for store growth and capital spending next year at its annual two-day analysts' conference.

[McDonald's Q3 profit rises 5.9%](#)

McDonald's Corp. on Thursday reported a 5.9% rise in profit, helped in part by increases in same-store sales across all its global markets.

[Tractor Supply Q3 profit up 39%](#)

Tractor Supply Co. said Wednesday its third-quarter profit rose 39% as sales increased slightly and it improved its gross margin.

[Wal-Mart launches holiday price-reduction program](#)

Wal-Mart Stores has launched its holiday price-cuts program. Starting Wednesday, Oct. 21, and lasting through the holiday period, the chain will announce new pricing reductions each week, beginning with select items in groceries and entertainment.

[Hot Mama expanding](#)

Hot Mama, an apparel boutique geared toward fashion-forward moms, said Wednesday it is opening three stores over the next three weeks.

[Red Mango to expand in Atlanta](#)

Frozen yogurt retailer Red Mango said Wednesday it will begin awarding franchise agreements in Atlanta as part of a national expansion campaign.

[Online sales to boost holiday sales](#)

Web sites run by Macy's, Gap and Urban Outfitters may prop up retail sales this holiday season as discounts and online improvements drive more shoppers to their computers, according to Bloomberg News.

[Supervalu to double Save-A-Lot store count over five years](#)

Supervalu said Tuesday that the discount grocer plans to double its chain size to 2,400 stores during the next five years.

[Wal-Mart CEO outlines priorities at annual investors meeting](#)

In opening remarks at the company's 16th annual investors meeting today, Wal-Mart Stores president and CEO Mike Duke said the chain will focus on executing three key priorities -- continuing to have aggressive growth, leveraging global scale and expenses and improving the returns of each operating segment -- to further enhance shareholder value.

[American Eagle Outfitters uses pop-up to debut 77kids](#)

American Eagle Outfitters on Wednesday debuted its new children's concept, 77kids by American Eagle, in a pop-up holiday store at The Mall at Robinson, Pittsburgh.

[Survey: More people spending on 'cause' brands](#)

Findings released Wednesday from a survey examining the importance of brands that have a social purpose revealed that despite the recession, an increasing number of people are spending on cause-related products even if they're more expensive.

[Subway opens 581 new locations in three months](#)

The Subway restaurant chain said Tuesday that from the beginning of July through the end of September, it opened 581 new locations around the world, which account for approximately 700,000 sq. ft. of commercial retail space.

[PlayNetwork acquires Channel M](#)

Media provider PlayNetwork said Tuesday it plans to acquire Channel M, a producer of customized in-store TV networks.

[Chain store sales rise 2.8%](#)

A report issued Tuesday by the International Council of Shopping Centers and Goldman Sachs said U.S. weekly chain store sales for the week ended Oct. 17 rose 2.8% over the year-ago period.

[Martha Stewart teams with PetSmart](#)

On the heels of Monday's announcement that Martha Stewart and Kmart would not renew their partnership, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia said Tuesday that the company has entered into a multi-year relationship with Age Group to create a line of pet-care products that will be sold through PetSmart.

[J.C. Penney recognized for green efforts](#)

J.C. Penney Co. said late Monday it has been recognized by Dow Jones as one of the leading companies in North America for corporate sustainability.

[Best Buy and Netflix partner to stream movies over Internet](#)

Best Buy Co. announced Tuesday that its exclusive brand, Insignia, and Netflix have teamed to make available two new Insignia Blu-ray Disc Players that enable Netflix members to instantly watch movies and TV episodes streamed from Netflix over the Internet to their televisions.

[Target joins Wal-Mart and Amazon in book price war](#)

Target Corp. entered the hardcover price war already being waged by Wal-Mart and Amazon, according to a report in the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*.

[ShopperTrak: 4.2% holiday traffic drop, 1.6% sales increase predicted](#)

ShopperTrak announced Tuesday that its Retail Traffic Index for the 2009 holiday shopping season revealed total U.S. foot traffic for the period is expected to decline 4.2% as compared with last year.

[Supervalu Q2 profit plummets 42%](#)

Grocery chain Supervalu reported Tuesday that its fiscal second-quarter profit dropped 42% on lower food prices, deep discounting to draw shoppers and previously announced store closings.

[Michaels announces Manhattan debut](#)

Arts and crafts retailer Michaels will open its first-ever Manhattan store on Oct. 25.

[Education retailer Holcomb's shuts all stores](#)

Cleveland-based school supplies retailer Holcomb's is closing its remaining stores in four states, according to an article in the *Chicago Tribune*.

[Lawsuit filed against Men's Wearhouse for securities violations](#)

Kendall Law Group said Monday it has filed a lawsuit against Men's Wearhouse for securities violations related to public statements made by the company between March 7, 2007 and Jan. 9, 2008.

[Rite Aid moves to finish refinancing 2010 debts](#)

Rite Aid Corp. said Monday it has moved closer to refinancing the rest of its debts due in 2010.

Toys 'R' Us faces antitrust investigation

Toys "R" Us is being investigated by the Federal Trade Commission for alleged antitrust violations, according to a report by the *Wall Street Journal* on Saturday.

Report: Microsoft set to open store

Microsoft will open the first of its branded retail stores on Oct. 22, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.